Claims

We claim:

1   1. A method for communicating audio messages using a two-way radio,

2   comprising:

3   asynchronously transmitting an output audio message, the transmitting

4   further comprising:

5   generating a first acoustic signal in an input device of the radio;

6   determining whether the first acoustic signal is a command, and if the first

7   acoustic signal is a particular command, then responding to the particular

8   command in an output device of the radio and processing the particular command,

9   and   otherwise storing the first acoustic signal in an output buffer of the radio and

10   sending the first acoustic signal as an output audio message only when a

11   communications channel is available to a transmitter of the radio; and

12   asynchronously receiving an input audio message in a receiver of the radio,

13   the receiving further comprising;

14   storing the input audio message in an input buffer of the radio;

15   generating a second acoustic signal in the input device;

16   sending the stored input audio message to the output device only if the

17   second acoustic signal is a play command.

1   2. The method of claim 1 wherein first and second acoustic signals are generated in

2   a microphone, and the response is sent to a speaker.

1   3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   activating an indicator when receiving the input audio message.

15

1   4. The method of claim 1 wherein the indicator is a light emitting diode.

1   5. The method of claim 1 wherein the indicator is a mechanical vibrator.

1   6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   sensing movement of the two-way radio in an accelerometer to generate an

3   alternative command.

1   7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   selecting a silent mode of operation with a select switch.

1   8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   communicating input and output audio messages among a plurality of two-

3   way radios via a wide area network.

1   9. The method of claim 8 storing the input and output audio messages in servers

2   connected to the wide area network.

1   10. The method of claim 8 wherein the wide area network includes a packet

2   switched network.

1   11. The method of claim 8 wherein the wide area network includes an Internet

2   network.

1   12. The method of claim 8 wherein each two-way radio has a unique physical

2   identification, and an associated logical identification.

1   13. The method of claim 12 wherein each logical identification is in a form of a

2   phrase having a predetermined words, the words arranged according to a

3   predetermined grammatical structure for a particular target language.

1   14. The method of claim 13 wherein a particular physical identification and an

2   associated particular logical identification map to a plurality of phrases for a

3   plurality of target languages, each target language having particular predetermined

4   words and particular grammatical structure for the particular target language.

1   15. The method of claim 1 wherein the responding further comprising:

2   synthesizing a response message.

1   16. The method of claim 1 wherein the output device is coupled to a user

2   appliance.

1   17. A two-way radio for communicating audio messages, comprising:

2   an input device for generating a first acoustic signal in an input device of the

3   radio;

4   a controller for determining whether the first acoustic signal is a command

5   or an output message;

6   an output buffer for storing the output message;

7   a transmitter for sending the stored message only when a communications

8   channel is available;

9   a receiver for receiving an input message;

10   an input buffer for storing the input message;

11   an output device for playing the input message only in response to a play

12   command.